38. Varkala
39. Calicut
40. Cannanore
41. Kalpetta
42. Kasargode
43. Kavarathy
44. Mahe
45. Nileshwar
46. Perur
47. Tellichery
48. Malappuram
49. Manjeri

Recruitment in the cadre of postal Assistant

1438. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the low grade employees of U.P. Postal Circle having passed the Recruiment Examination of November, 1982 for the post of Postal Assistant have not so far been promoted, even after receiving the training;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the low grade employees of Delhi Circle having passed the same examination of November 1982 have been given is protion to the post of Postal Assistant, during the year 1983-84;

(c) whether this issue has been brought to the notice of his Ministry by some Members of Parliament in their various communications during the last two years; and

(d) if the answers to part (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take prompt action to give promotion to the low grade employees of Uttar Pradesh Postal Circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) In the Departmental Examination held for promotion to the cadre of Postal Assistants in U.P. Circle in November, 1982, 444 officials qualified. Out of these 364 have already been promoted. Action has also been taken to promote the remaining 80 officials.

(b) In Delhi Circle also, most of the qualified lower grade officials of 1982 departmental examination have been promoted to the cadre of Postal Assistants. However, 15 officials have yet to be promoted pending availability of vacancies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Due to the cut imposed on sanctioned strength of operative cadres for implementation of Time Bound One Promotion Scheme, withdrawal of licence fee on radio/TV and ban on creation of new posts, vacancy position in almost all recruiting Units was affected. This retarded the pace of promotion of qualified lower grade officials to clerical cadre. Instructions have since been issued to all Heads of Circles *inter alia* providing that in case in the recruitment made in clerical cadre upto 4th January, 1984, the total number of departmental promotees has been less than 50 per cent of the quota reserved for them, the imbalance may be made good by promoting the qualified lower grade officials of 1981 and 1982 examinations in relaxation of ban orders and the surplus thus created due to this displacement on account of this exercise may be held as surplus till they are eventually absorbed. With the issue of these orders, it is expected that all qualified LGOs of 1981 and 1982 examinations will be promoted to clerical cadres soon.

Regularisation of extra-departmental agents

1439. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many extra-departmental agents are working in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the country; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to regularise their services as